

AFSC hit by BRAC list

Six ammunition facilities selected for closure

Rock Island, Ill. – The Department of Defense released its base closure and realignment recommendations May 13. The process, commonly known as BRAC, will result in the closure of six AFSC installations.

The recommendations are not final and still must go through the rest of the BRAC process before they take on the force of law.

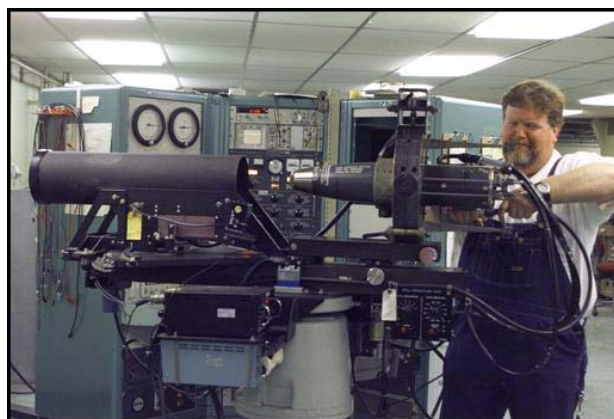
However, the following six AFSC installations and sites in the United States were identified for closure:

- Hawthorne Army Depot, Hawthorne, Nev.
- Kansas Army Ammunition Plant, Parsons, Kan.
- Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, Texarkana, Texas
- Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant, Stennis Space Center, Miss.
- Red River Munitions Center, Texarkana, Texas.
- Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant, Riverbank, Calif.

Red River Munitions Center is a tenant on Red River Army Depot, which has been identified for closure. The depot borders on Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, and the two installations share a contiguous portion of land in northeast Texas.

DoD also recommended transferring artillery metal parts work now performed at two ammunition plants identified for closure to the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center at the Rock Island Arsenal. The metal parts work would be transferred from Mississippi AAP and Riverbank AAP.

Decisions on how and when the impacted organizations will be transferred to their new locations are pending. By law, implementation actions cannot begin until the BRAC process is complete. However, planning for implementation will begin soon, and



A worker at Red River Munitions Center conducts testing on ammunition. Red River Munitions Center is on the BRAC list for closure.

affected employees will be informed of their options and rights as the process moves forward.

The Headquarters of the U.S. Army Field Support Command (AFSC) is the largest organization on the Arsenal in terms of employment numbers, and Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, the commanding general of AFSC and highest ranking military officer on the Arsenal, serves as installation commander. AFSC Headquarters was apparently unaffected by the BRAC recommendations.

Under the recommendations, several ammunition facilities within AFSC would gain some workload from plants that are closing. However, the exact impact of this new workload is unknown at this time.

The closure of the six installations is not expected to affect employment levels at AFSC Headquarters.

-- Paul Levesque

On the Record: Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, CG AFSC

The BRAC recommendations announced by the Secretary of Defense are among the more concerning issues with AFSC. The mere mention of BRAC sends an uneasy feeling throughout the Department of Defense and all of the communities hosting our military organizations. However, BRAC actions are necessary to adjust our military infrastructure to achieve the critical efficiencies to effectively defend our country.

The announcement by the Secretary was just his recommendations and served to initiate the current phase of the BRAC process. The BRAC Commissioners will review the recommendations and input from affected communities before making their final recommendation to the President. Should the President accept the recommendations, he will submit them to the Congress for a final decision. Until the decision is final, nothing is for sure. Historically, around 85 percent of the Department of Defense recommendations eventually receive approval. For this reason, some preliminary planning has begun to support an orderly implementation of the final decisions.

As Department of Defense employees (military and civilian), we must support the Secretary of



Defense's BRAC recommendations. For this reason, in our official capacity, we may not participate in discussions or rallies attempting to influence the Commission to overturn the Secretary's recommendation. This does not preclude us, as private citizens, from exercising our rights to express our opinions and support in any way our conscience dictates. However, each person must maintain a clear distinction between his/her official government capacity and participation in rallies and other activities advocating reversal of the Secretary's BRAC recommendation.

Your local ethics advisors are available to provide advice on any questionable activities.

By law, the BRAC recommendations must be based on

"Military value" – the value they possess in moving transformation forward and maintaining our military in a dominant position throughout the 21st century, by law must be a major factor in the BRAC recommendations. Let me emphasize that this does NOT imply that installations and organizations impacted by BRAC have no value, nor does it imply that the work done by the people within those organizations is of low value or low quality. On the contrary – your work is of great value, and you've made, and are continuing to make, tremendous contributions to military readiness.

For those affected by proposed closure or realignment, I know you're under a lot of stress. You are facing an unpleasant uncertainty. I can't make the BRAC recommendations go away; however, I will assure you that, this command will provide support to help you cope with BRAC uncertainties and final decisions at appropriate times, as we progress through the process. You will have many questions. Some will be easy to answer, but others will require research and time for events to fall into place before we can provide a clear answer.

For employees affected by the
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THE GLOBAL LINE

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AMC, AFSC setting the pace in Afghanistan

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – Army Materiel Command's presence in Afghanistan is shaping up as rapidly as a Sprung Instant Shelter goes up. In only five months, the concept of hanging protective armor on military vehicles has grown from a Warning Order, through phased deployments, to new facilities under construction far forward in the field.

Construction abounds at AMC's 7.1 acre site with as many as 50 personnel from four separate construction crews and five nations pouring life into the headquarters of Army Field Support Battalion – Afghanistan. Quick funding and approval from Department of the Army and AMC ensured a rapid start.

Meanwhile, AFSB-AF personnel are sustaining progress with a goal of achieving full operational capability this summer. In addition to protecting Soldiers by installing add-on armor on military vehicles, the battalion will sustain the mission by providing General Support Maintenance and asset visibility and accountability of stay-behind equipment.

Lt. Col. Martin Binder, commander of AFSB-AF, has a unique blend of personnel under his command. Army Field Support Command has deployed military personnel, DA civilians and contractors from four continents to ensure mission success in Afghanistan.

Attesting to the battalion's value to Operation Enduring Freedom, Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, commanding general of Army Field Support Brigade



Photo by Alex Blincow, US Army

Lt. Col. Vicki Flack, right, briefs AFSB-Afghanistan construction progress at Bagram Air Base to, from left: Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, Brig. Gen. James M. Milano, Lt. Col. Neil Higgins, and Lt. Col. Martin Binder, commander of AFSB-AF.

– Southwest Asia and Coalition Forces Land Component Command director of logistics (C4) and Brig. Gen. James M. Milano, CFLCC C3, recently paid a visit to assess progress. Reality is starting to take shape, with the first of four Sprung shelters under construction and expected to be ready for operations in early May. At that point, AMC will begin to install add-on armor on military vehicles that will protect Soldiers on missions throughout Afghanistan. The new facility will also provide the only place for

General Support Maintenance in all of Afghanistan.

Since January 2005, the site has grown from bare earth to four large concrete pads, each 110 ft. by 250 ft. wide. Pad #1 already has its Sprung going up; Pad #2 is ready for its Sprung, and the remaining two pads will be complete by late April.

All this is taking place under the watchful eye of Lt. Col. Vicki Flack, an engineer officer deployed from AFSC. In addition to overseeing construction of the maintenance facilities, she is managing construction for living and office areas, a wash rack, paint booth, mobile parts hospital and a small arms support center.

By the end of summer the entire facility should be up and running, with a military and civilian workforce delivering expeditionary logistics support to Warfighters engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom.

-- Lt. Col. Vicki Flack, FSB-AF

Multi Functional Support Command makes contributions to AFSC global mission

To say that the Multi-Functional Support Command (MFSC) is an integral part of the Army Field Support Command (AFSC) is putting it mildly. In fact, the unit provides a valuable service to AFSC in military expertise and fast mobilization.

The process to create this unit started back in 2000. Stood up in December 2002, MFSC was created for AFSC to provide the "green suit" expertise in various logistical areas in theater.

The unit is comprised of Army reservists from eight Midwest states. Although the Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) has slots for 56 Soldiers – 28 officer and 28 enlisted- the unit currently has 31 Soldiers, 22 of whom are deployed in theater.

The unit absorbed reservists from the deactivated 19th Theater Army Area Command (19th TAACOM), located at old Fort Des Moines in Des Moines, Iowa. The model used to form the unit was based upon the structure of the Joint Transportation Reserve Unit, which supports U.S Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base located in Illinois.

The unit has members from many Military Occupational Specialties, including transportation, ammunition, administration, supply, intelligence, maintenance and multi-functional logistics.

It was originally designed to support the AFSC Logistics Operations Center (LOC), but the scope of support soon grew to include intelligence, logistics and administration.

The MFSC is currently divided into three parts. There is a main reserve unit and there are two sub-units, Detachments 1 and 2, that are mobilized, according to Lt. Col. Dawn Michaud, Officer in Charge, Detachment 2, mobilized to AFSC headquarters.

"I have 10 soldiers working for me," she said. "I and one other Soldier are working the LOC theater desk, two are working readiness, six are working as analysts and one is working human resource issues."

Lt. Col. Joseph Bartley is the Officer-in-Charge for Detachment 1. The 18 Soldiers in the detachment are mobilized throughout Southwest Asia.

"Prior to mobilization, the unit was actively involved in the Logistic Operations Center during battle assemblies and annual training," said Col. Margaret Murphy, Commander, MFSC. "Our unit has



Photo by MARGARET BROWNE

Lt. Col. Dawn Michaud and 1st Sgt. Gregorio Jimenez, go over MFSC data in Rock Island.

also supported exercises in the Pacific and Far East like Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL), and reception, staging, onward movement (RSOI) and the initial employment of the Stryker."

In theater, the MFSC function is a little different.

"The initial requirement for MFSC personnel was two detachments-one to go to Iraq and serve as property book officers (PBO) for the Stay-Behind-Equipment (SBE) throughout the Iraqi theater and the other to support the Logistics Operation Center," said Murphy.

MFSC's mission expanded as the mission of the Logistics Operations Center expanded. "With the War on Terror continuing for a long period of time, the LOC mission expanded and so did the MFSC," said Murphy.

MFSC was tasked with the PBO function out of the need for accounting for unit property, with the in-theater unit not having the means to do it. Since PBOs had to be military and MFSC had many senior non-commissioned officers, it was a good mission for the unit.

However, because of the requirement to speed up the SBE program, the time required mobilizing a reserve unit, and the increased size and complexity of the mission for the in-theater group, the mission of the MFSC in theater grew quite a bit. It now includes Soldiers involved in the Add-on-Armor program, the expanded SBE program in Afghanistan, support for the SBE headquarters in Iraq, and several PBOs in theater.

Murphy has big plans for the unit. She would

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AFSC makes small business Army history

Rock Island, Ill. – AFSC has awarded the largest total value small business set-aside contract in the history of the U.S. Army.

For the first time in recent history, 40mm grenades were purchased as a complete system instead of component parts. Now, instead of buying each part of the grenade and sending the parts to a facility to be assembled into the end item, the government purchases the grenade and it is up to the contractor to provide each individual part and assemble them into a finished grenade. The contracts include the M918, M430A1, and M385A1 cartridges for the MK19 grenade launcher and M781, M583, and M433 cartridges for the M203 grenade launcher.

Two contractors, AMTEC Corporation of Janesville, Wis, and DSE Inc., also known as Balimoy, of Tampa, Fla. were each awarded firm fixed price contracts, which include evaluated options which can last up to five years according to Procuring Contracting Officer Jim Prather. The six proposals submitted were evaluated in accordance with best value procedures, rather than evaluating based on low price. AMTEC, a small business, was awarded 55% of the items and 100% of the M385A1. Balimoy, a small disadvantaged business, was awarded 45% of the items, excluding the M385A1. More than \$80 million was initially placed on these contracts and they could have an estimated

value of \$1.3 billion if the options are exercised, according to Mr. Prather.

Steve Sullivan of the AFSC Small Business Office said that an award of this magnitude is not often awarded as a small business set-aside. Under the rules of the Small Business Administration in US Code, small businesses are able to use joint ventures as a way to compete against large businesses on high dollar procurements. Under joint ventures, several small businesses form an agreement to bid on the procurement as one small business entity. With their combined resources, a more competitive price can be proposed according to Sullivan.

According to Bill Sanville, the Deputy Project Manager for Maneuver Ammunition Systems, this award is the culmination of a cutting edge acquisition strategy developed by PM MAS and approved by the Program Executive Officer for Ammunition.

“The up-front coordination between program, contracting and small business representatives, and the many information exchanges with industry that enabled extensive teaming was extraordinary. The 40mm systems acquisition will serve as a model for others,” stated Scott Crosson, Associate Director for Small Business at the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC). AMC is the higher headquarters for the Army Field Support Command.

-- Angela Hamerlinck

BRAC *Continued from page 2*

BRAC recommendations this command will offer the counseling, benefits, services and support for which they are entitled. All of my leaders and managers throughout the Command need to share this intent, which represents a personal commitment on my part.

You may have heard rumors and allegations related to BRAC, and you are sure to hear more in the future. While I cannot stop rumors and allegations, I will insist that you receive timely, accurate reliable information as it becomes available. All the components of the command will be involved in this information campaign, and all leaders and managers will be expected to keep their people updated on changes impacting individual employees and specific organizations.

The BRAC recommendations hit us, our families, and our communities on a personal level. This is a time when we need to take care of one another, to listen, to be sensitive to one another, and to offer a

helping hand to one another. One of the points in the Army ethos – a point that I hold dear – is that we never leave a fallen comrade behind. To me, this doesn't just refer to Soldiers killed or wounded in battle. It's also about how we treat all members of the Army family whenever they are facing personal challenges. Throughout this command, we are surrounded by people who care – I truly believe that, because I've experienced that caring myself.

This is a time of stress and uncertainty. We are all being tested to some degree. At times like this, true professionals step forward. You can show your professionalism by continuing to do your job to the best of your ability, and by demonstrating the highest level of skill and teamwork. I'm calling on you to give it your best despite difficult circumstances – and I know you'll come through. Bottom line: BRAC or no BRAC, we are at war, and American Soldiers are counting on all of us. Let's not let them down.

Army logistics units in Europe get new name, mission

SECKENHEIM, Germany - - Five Europe-based units took a giant step into the future of logistics support during a May 23 ceremony at Hammonds Barracks.

Combat Equipment Battalions in Livorno, Italy; Bettembourg, Luxembourg; Eygelshoven, Netherlands and Hythe, England were re-designated as Army Field Support Battalions and a Combat Equipment Base at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany became an Army Field Support Company.

Speaking to the troops and guests, Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commander of Army Materiel Command, noted the newly designated units are the first of their kind and establish a more effective way to support expeditionary fighting forces. "You are leading the effort in AMC and setting the standard," he said. Griffin went on to say that Army Field Support Brigade - Europe and its subordinate units are on the tip of the transformation spear, harnessing acquisition, logistics and technology in a way that will improve support to combat forces.

"This ceremonial change validates our concept of 21st century logistics support," said Col. Xavier P. Lobeto, brigade commander. "We've been adapting to change and shifting our mission focus for some time. Now, we can claim the name that describes what we do: Army Field Support."

The new name reflects a new mission. "We're already well down the road of expeditionary logistics support. Two of our four battalion commanders, and many staff members, are deployed from their home stations to combat zones. Brigade headquarters has deployed an operations command post, providing



AFSB-Europe Soldiers uncase new battalion and company colors during a May 23 ceremony at Hammonds Barracks, Seckenheim, Germany.

command and control of Army Materiel Command activities in Iraq," said Lobeto, who is himself deployed to Iraq.

Lobeto noted that the direction of AFSB-E and its subordinate units is tied to two things: Army transformation to expeditionary capabilities and the new shape of U.S. Army, Europe and U.S. European Command. "We deliver Army Field Support Command and Army Materiel Command capabilities to USAREUR and USEUCOM, so we are smack in the middle of Transformation," he said.

Today, AFSB-E units are heavily engaged in delivering urgently needed equipment and expert logistics assistance to supported units like the 1st Armored and 1st Infantry Divisions.

-- Chuck Fick, AFSB-E Public Affairs

MFSC *Continued from page 4*

like to see more saturation within AFSC. "I would like to take the command into further integration with AFSC to include assigning slots and personnel to all G-staff sections," she said.

Murphy does not believe that there will be shortage of volunteers for this duty. "The advantage of a unit like the MFSC is that supporting the active duty on a monthly basis is very rewarding, practical, and a real draw for the unit," she said. "This is the first (Army) reserve unit in the area and people are still finding out about us." The word spreads among Soldiers and since the MFSC has to recruit, word of mouth is the best advertising, she added.

She has reason to believe that this interest will

continue because with each promotion board, soldiers looking for an assignment call the unit to see what they do. "Many Soldiers returning from Southwest Asia sometime look for a new assignment when they return and we have been able to pick up several of these experienced soldiers, who then take their knowledge and train the civilians and other Army Reserve Soldiers," she said.

"We have a lot to offer, namely a great mission, an active duty post with a commissary and PX, housing for Soldiers when they are away from home, an abundance of rank, and upward mobility," said Murphy.

-- Margaret Browne